

Developer Response to Transport Canada

The Developer (Hamlet of Tuktoyaktuk, Town of Inuvik and GNWT Department of Transportation) is pleased to provide the following responses to the conformity review comments provided in Transport Canada's letter dated June 23, 2011.

This document is provided in addition to the Addendum to the Environmental Impact Statement submitted to the Environmental Impact Review Board (EIRB) in response to the EIRB's letter dated July 15, 2011: *Conformity Statement and Board Direction Regarding the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Hamlet of Tuktoyaktuk, Town of Inuvik and GNWT – Construction of the Inuvik to Tuktoyaktuk Highway, Northwest Territories* [02/10-05].

1. GENERAL COMMENTS

Reviewer's Comments:

With reference to application requirements of the *Navigable Waters Protection Act* (NWPA); the information supplied in the DEIS is a good start, but the respective NWPA applications will still require additional information such as watercourse widths, depths, grade, pictures up stream, downstream and across the location(s) intersecting the proposed highway. Also, the watercourse crossing location(s) will need to be referenced in Degrees – Minutes – Seconds.

Developer's Response:

The Developer appreciates the advice provided by Transport Canada. The additional information needs identified by Transport Canada, such as navigable watercourse crossing location coordinates; widths; depths; grade; upstream, downstream and across the location photos will be provided as necessary in support of the respective NWPA applications.

2. GENERAL COMMENTS

Reviewer's Comments:

Transport Canada – Aboriginal Consultations Unit would like to see for the likely watercourse crossings that Transport Canada may be approving under the NWPA, and through the course of aboriginal consultations with aboriginal groups in the area; any concerns that aboriginal groups may have raised related to the watercourse crossings, possible adverse impacts on their potential or known aboriginal or treaty rights, and any mitigation measures that have been identified to address their concerns.

Developer's Response:

General information related to the proposed watercourse crossings was provided to residents of Tuktoyaktuk and Inuvik during the October 2009 and January 2010 consultations. The presentations provided information on proposed crossing methods using bridges and culverts. Specific references were made to conforming with DFO Operational statements, and obtaining water licences for some stream crossings and a commitment was made to protect fish habitat. Future project requirements, including watercourse crossing assessments, erosion and sediment control plans, bridge and culvert design, and route alignment surveys were discussed.

The two questions that arose from the October 2009 consultations pertaining to watercourse crossings were related to the safety of single lane bridges and whether the bridges would be designed to support large module trucks for Parsons Lake. No questions or comments related to watercourse crossings were raised during the January 2010 consultations.